Yamuna water unfit for human consumption

936. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether according to a survey conducted by CPCB, it has been found that the water of Yamuna is not fit for human consumption as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 29th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government, in consultation with the State Government propose to formulate any concrete plans to keep the Yamuna free from pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The stretch of river Yamuna in Delhi is polluted between Wazirabad and Okhla barrage due to discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents and river water is not fit for human consumption. Water quality parameters like dissolved oxygen, bio-chemical oxygen demand and total coliforms are not meeting the desired standards. Under the Yamuna Action Plan, a small component of two sewage treatment plants and one electric crematorium only are covered, which are targetted for completion by March, 2000. Major works of constructing 15 sewage treatment plants to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day has been taken up by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi from their own Plan funds. These works are targetted for completion by December, 2000. In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging wastewater into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to these sewage treatment plants. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river for which all the riparian States except Delhi have agreed to release their share. As a permanent measure to tackle industrial

pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 Common Effluent Treatment Plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. Water quality of Yamuna will improve after implementation of these measures.

Permission for shooting of films in sanctuaries

†937. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the permission for shooting of films in various sanctuaries particularly in the Hills of Nilgiri, is being given liberally;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such film shootings damage wild-life and flora and fauna of the said places; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Gvoernment to regulate these shootings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Permission to shoot films in National Parks and sanctuaries is granted keeping due regard to the interests of the conservation.

(b) No report of adverse impact of film shooting on wildlife including fauna and flora has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Levels of vehicular pollution in Delhi

938. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water and vehicular pollution has come down in the Capital, as a result of sustained efforts made by Government during the last six months;

(b) if so, to what extent;

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† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.